

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 ACDA-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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O R 242012Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 174770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA

SUBJECT: MIDEASTFOR STATUS

REF: MANAMA'S 737, 738, 805, 808, 827, 830, STATE 71687,
72837, 160780

1. WE AGREE PROMPT EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH GOB AFFIRMING
SECRET

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RECENT UNDERSTANDING RE MIDEASTFOR IS DESIRABLE. WE ALSO
DESIRE MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FEASIBLE DIPLOMATIC FLEXIBILITY
REGARDING MIDEASTFOR FUTURE. WE RECOGNIZE GOB FEELS THAT
IT MUST, AS MINIMUM, HAVE SOME RECOGNITION IN PRINCIPLE

THAT MIDEASTFOR'S PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN NOT BE IN PERPETUITY. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE WE ARE FACED WITH GOB UNILATERALLY SETTING A FIRM (AND PUBLIC) DEADLINE WHICH WOULD (A) SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE POSSIBILITIES OF MIDEASTFOR'S STAYING THEREAFTER, SHOULD BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS AGREE THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, (B) UNDERMINE VALUE OF MIDEASTFOR AS SYMBOL OF U.S. INTEREST IN AREA, AND (C) BE SEEN AS POLITICAL SETBACK TO U.S.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND GOB VIEW, IF WE ACCEPT PRINCIPLE THAT MIDEASTFOR'S PRESENCE WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE PERMANENT AND RECOGNIZE THAT GOB HAS TENTATIVELY CHOSEN

JUNE 1977 FOR PLANNING PURPOSES AS TERMINATION DATE FOR MIDEASTFOR, THIS WILL ENABLE GOB TO MEET ITS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NEXT OCTOBER AND PROVIDE TIME TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE IN A MORE DELIBERATE FASHION OVER THE COURSE OF THE SUBSEQUENT MONTHS. WE ASSUME PRINCIPAL FACTORS WOULD THEREAFTER BE DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT (INCLUDING COURSE OF EVENTS IN PERSIAN GULF).

3. WE ACCEPT YOUR JUDGMENT THAT WE WOULD RETAIN GREATEST FLEXIBILITY, GIVEN GOB STANCE, IF WE NOT WAIT FOR GOB TO GIVE US A DRAFT STATEMENT ON MIDEASTFOR TERMINATION BUT GIVE GOB STATEMENT OF OUR OWN AFTER EXCHANGE OF NOTES TAKES PLACE. SUCH STATEMENT WOULD (A) INDICATE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS EVENTUAL TERMINATION OF NAVY PRESENCE ON ISLAND; BUT (B) EXPLICITLY LEAVE MATTER OF WHEN MIDEASTFOR WOULD ACTUALLY LEAVE OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND LATER DECISION IN LIGHT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS (AND AVOID MENTION OF JUNE 1977 DATE).

4. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED COURSE (IN WHICH CASE YOU SHOULD NOTIFY DEPARTMENT AT ONCE), YOU SHOULD PROCEED PROMPTLY WITH EXCHANGE OF NEGOTIATED DOCUMENTS. YOU SHOULD THEN PROPOSE TO GOB
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THAT EMBASSY FURNISH IT A LETTER, WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE GOB RESPONSE AND WHICH WE WOULD ASK GOB NOT TO RELEASE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGIN TEXT: ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE USG UNDERSTANDS THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS REVIEWED ITS POSITION ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN UNDER CONDITIONS LAID OUT IN THE STATIONING AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 1971 BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE PREVAILING SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO RECEIVE THE

ASSURANCES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE IS NOT CONSIDERED A PERMANENT ONE AND THAT THE EVENTUAL TERMINATION OF ITS PRESENCE SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR MUTUAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE COMING YEARS.

IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH MIDDLE EAST FORCE OPERATES FROM BAHRAIN HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED BY EITHER GOVERNMENT TO BE A COMMITMENT IN PERPETUITY. HENCE, IN

THE STATIONING AGREEMENT EACH GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE ARRANGEMENT MAY BE TERMINATED AT ANY TIME BY EITHER PARTY WITH THE PROVISION THAT A SPECIFIED PERIOD BE GRANTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TERMINATING THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE. IN VIEW OF THIS UNDERSTANDING AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PRINCIPLE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN UPON REQUEST TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION PREVAILING AT THAT TIME. END TEXT.

5. WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTEREST FOR SOMETHING IN WRITING RESCINDING 1973 TERMINATION CLAUSE (MANAMA'S 830), WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT NECESSARY SINCE EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS WILL REPRESENT CONTINUED MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE.

KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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